

# Philly PARCEL

Official Publication of the Philadelphia Bulk Mail Center Local 7048, American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO Volume **XXXIV** Number **I** January/February 2017

"One Workforce - One Struggle - One Union"

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! THE TRANSITION IS COMPLETE! CHUCK CAMP IS OUR NEW PRESIDENT!



Above: New Local President Chuck Camp, (left), presents former President Vince Tarducci with a recognition plaque at the November GMM.

Right: Local President, Chuck Camp, presides over the November General Membership Meeting.



# American Postal Worker's Union <u>Philadelphia Bulk Mail Center</u> Local # 7048

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# The **Philly PARCEL**

Is an official publication of the Philadelphia Bulk Mail Center Local #7048

### American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

The opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or the Local. All members of the Bulk Mail Center community are invited to submit articles for publication.

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Ray Pavel, Editor Advertising Rates

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Ron Leavesley - Maint.
Chuck Camp - MVS

Bill Schweiker - Clerk
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# The President's View

(From a new, 1<sup>st</sup> time president)



### THE TRANSITION

I have to start out by thanking Vince Tarducci for all of the time and effort he put into ensuring that the transition was as smooth as possible. Vince did the job for 27 years before I took over, so as you might expect, there was a lot of information to share. I am also thankful to the many members who have offered their support and words of encouragement. They mean more than you can imagine. Even though I have been involved in the administration of this local in one capacity or another for over two decades myself, it is something altogether different to assume the role of president.

The gavel was passed in the middle of the November General Membership Meeting and I don't think we've missed a beat. That is due mainly to the help offered by Vince and the fact that we have an experienced, dedicated group of officers, stewards and members who want to see this local continue to move forward for years to come. I am confident that the membership will be well represented by those who have stepped up after long-time leaders moved on to bigger and better things.

I appointed Bob Kovalik to fill the position of vice president that was vacated when I became president. Bob has done a great job of just running with those duties, while still helping out in numerous other areas. The craft directors and treasurer have also taken on additional duties without a problem. There are currently a number of constitution changes being proposed to address the duties that will be expected going forward with one less position on the Executive Board. Based on our constitutional timeline, these changes will be instituted at the March GMM if they are passed by those in attendance. Try to attend and let your voice and vote count in shaping our future.

### **STAPLES**

A flyer was distributed and emailed out detailing the great victory that the AWPU won on the Staples issue.

This was a not-so-subtle attempt by the USPS to contract out the work of our members to be done by non-union, low pay workers who don't come close to providing the American people with the level of service and care that we have provided for decades. This was a win for postal workers, postal customers, working class America, etc. We stood up to fight for good wages and benefits to be preserved, while providing the public with valuable universal service and ensuring that their mail would maintain the sanctity and protection it deserves. Well done!

### **NON-MEMBERS**

I continue to discuss the issue of those who are accepting the benefits of union representation without paying a penny into the funds necessary to protect what we have already won, as well as to try to gain new benefits in the future. Unfortunately, the number of nonmembers has increased slightly in the last couple of months, even as we have gained a number of new members with the additional PSE clerks that were hired at the NDC and Levittown offices. I am truly grateful that we are 100% organized with our PSEs and are also 100% organized at Levittown and Fairless Hills. The non-members that we do have come from the full time regular workers at the NDC.

I have spoken to some of these people trying to get them back into the fold and will continue to do so. We must all take on this responsibility because there is a cost to carrying non-members in an organization such as ours. Every dollar in dues saved by a non-member is made up for by dollars paid by those of us who belong and pay their share. The simplest way that I can describe this process is to compare us to a grocery store. You come in whenever you need to and load up on your good pay, benefits, holidays, local and national contracts, steward representation, change-of-schedule policies, safety rules, and on and on and on it goes. On the way out, **YOU** pay towards the cost of achieving all

the we enjoy (and there is MUCH that we enjoy as union represented workers in this age of anti-worker policies). But there are those few who shop in the store of representation every day, enjoying those benefits of pay, security, stability, and all of the other benefits that a union job offers, while choosing to **PAY NOTHING** for what they take. They are secure in the knowledge that they will be protected thanks to those who join and voluntarily pay their dues so that the union can continue to exist.

This is not fair today, nor has it ever been fair. Locally, we have 7 non-members, which equates to approximately \$6,000 of free representation absorbed by those who belong and pay their dues. In theory, each dues-paying member of our local pays about .65 cents a pay period in dues to cover those who choose to shop at the union benefit store, but walk out every time without paying! Why? The reasons for not belonging are many, but there are no reasons that justify taking a free ride on the backs of your coworkers. It's unrealistic to think that all 350 or so members of Local #7048 would guit the union, but just imagine if we did. Then the nonmembers would see the cost associated with not belonging. We would all suffer tremendously with the loss of representation. Therefore, I urge those few who do not yet belong to please reconsider and join us in this endless battle by becoming a dues-paying member of the APWU rather than relying on coworkers to carry the load for them.

### PARTICIPATION NEEDED

My final thoughts for this newsletter will be in regards to member involvement in the organization. We are the UNION. It is not the board, or committees, or stewards. It is all of us as a whole. Together we determine what the union will be, especially locally. More participation is needed, encouraged, and welcomed at any and all levels of unionism. We need new stewards to step up, voters to cast their ballots, contributors to support COPA, people to attend meetings, people to hand out flyers at work, to continually speak to non-members about the importance of joining, to speak to coworkers about the importance of remaining a member, to present new ideas on moving the organization forward, etc.

Currently, we are an organization led by experienced people who started their involvement in their 20's. Most are now in their 50's or even 60's, which is not a bad thing because that means they have been learning and perfecting their craft for a long time. The bad part is that in about 10 years, every single one of these trained, experienced reps will be retired. Some of our younger members may not yet realize how fast 10 years will go by, but trust me, that time will be here before you know it. The time to start learning this stuff is at hand.

Along with the task of preparing new stewards to carry the torch, we all should be upping our participation in local and national APWU elections, state and federal elections, making COPA contributions and any other duties that will help to protect these jobs that provide a decent wage with benefits that we are lucky enough to have had for all of these years. It's fairly obvious that attacks on jobs like ours, and organizations like ours are on the increase. Unions, union representation, workers' rights, and virtually all of the middle and lower income people of this country are in the crosshairs of politicians with an agenda that will not be to our benefit.

Be prepared to fight in order to keep what we have earned because there are definitely those who would like to take it away. WE ARE THE UNION!

In closing, I would like to wish every member a safe, successful, and happy 2017. Thank you for being a part of this awesome local!

In Solidarity,

# Chuck Camp

Starting from the left, newly appointed Local Vice-President: Robert Kovalik, APWU Eastern Regional Co-Ordinator: Mike Gallagher, Former Local President: Vince Tarducci, APWU National Health Plan Director: John Marcotte, Membership, and Local Clerk Craft Director: Bill Schweiker, listen to Local President Chuck Camp preside over his first GMM.



# **Thoughts From Our Former President!**

Recently Elected to Eastern Region Clerk Craft NBA!



### HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

First and foremost I wanted to take this time to thank the local for an unbelievable farewell. As you know I announced back in January 2016 my intentions to run for what was going to be a vacant National Business Agent clerk position for the Philadelphia Region. I was very fortunate to run unopposed for the position. This was a blessing for the local as it allowed me and President Chuck Camp to have a very smooth transition. We met frequently to address issues that would assist Chuck going into his new position.

I am very proud of how Chuck has already progressed into the President position. After doing the job for 27 years taking over for then President Mike Gallagher, it was an awesome experience representing Local 7048. I was fortunate to work with some great union activists. Believe me when I say, there are many. One of the highlights involved the negotiating of the Change of Schedule Policy. It was negotiated back in the late 1980's and was perfected in 1999. We had to preserve it with the infamous Koziara arbitration award in 1993 when Mike Gallagher won the case in regular panel arbitration with me serving as his Technical Advisor. The award paid more than \$100,000.00 in back pay to members as local management chose to deny COS requests despite being in clear violation of the settlement agreement I had signed off with labor relations.

Six years later the parties made strides by tweaking the policy to benefit more members for years to come. Some locals don't necessarily agree with such a policy, because they feel it circumvents bidding, but it worked for Local 7048. It allowed members who for years would never touch a weekend drop day, to have the opportunity to voluntarily request a change of drop days to periodically secure part or the whole weekend off for a particular week. All three crafts under APWU jurisdiction enjoy this policy that covers their respective craft.

Another highlight was when local management challenged many of our Items in the Local Memo forcing us to fight for the rights of the membership. The issues had to do with Employee Wash up, Overtime, Holiday Scheduling, Light Duty, Seniority and one of the most important items of them all, Annual Leave/Choice Vacation.

When all was said and done, we preserved virtually everything we had previously negotiated. The Union had succeeded in beating the employer as they tried unsuccessfully to strip our members of rights we were not going to give up without a full court press. When I wrote the Flyer after our victories, it was one of my proudest moments. We had beaten them like a drum.

In closing, the November 2016 GMM was very emotional for me. The beautiful plaque I was given is proudly displayed in my office in Sicklerville, NJ. Also, on my last day at the plant I was caught off guard with an awesome luncheon with great food with many of my coworkers participating. At the clock earlier that day, a scrumptious sheet cake, nicely decorated, was presented with many kind words from friends. The local leadership capped it off with an exceptional dinner the day before I started my new endeavor. I want to personally thank Chuck, Joe and Lori Lockrey and Benson and Earline Stephens for attending the Installation of National Officers on November 5h in DC. I was blessed to have my wife Christine and all four sons attend the ceremony.

I have now worked for the National since mid-November, hitting the ground running. I look forward to representing the many locals and members throughout my region or anywhere else I am asked to serve. I hope to make as many of my local's membership meetings as possible and get the chance to catch up with the people that I no longer get to see everyday at work.

Remember Without Unionism, There is Favoritism....

Vince Tarducci, NBA Philadelphia

# APWU ANNOUNCES VICTORY IN STAPLES FIGHT!

APWU President Mark Dimondstein, via conference call with local and state presidents, indicated that the USPS was scrapping the Staples program and that all postal operations would cease in Staples stores within 6 weeks. This is a HUGE VICTORY for postal workers. While the USPS contended from the start that this program was good for the USPS and denied that it was an attempt to outsource our jobs, the truth came out in the end. The battle, started by the APWU and joined by the other postal unions, slowly gained momentum and found invaluable support from the AFL-CIO, the Teacher's union, the public, etc. At the forefront of it all though, was the membership. Members wore tshirts and stickers, walked the protest lines at Staples' stores, contacted their Representatives in Washington, D.C., and so on. From the streets to the courts, this was a hard fought battle to protect our jobs. The Postal Service managers, at the headquarters level, attempted to replace many of us with a low wage, no training, no responsibility workforce, wearing staples uniforms. The public got nothing close to the service and protection of their mail that USPS employees provide each and every day. Had we not stopped this subcontracting at Staples, the floodgates may well have opened until there were virtually no real postal workers left handling the mail.

This battle is won, but "The Struggle Continues". Moe Biller's words ring as true today as ever. We must continue to act as a UNION, in which every member does his or her part to fight those who would rather see us making minimum wage or less for the service we provide the American people. Jobs like ours that provided good wages with benefits are under constant attack from all angles, including from some of our government officials and USPS' top level managers. Fighting off privatization through ventures such as the Staples campaign is costly and time-consuming. The members of the APWU paid the price to wage this battle. Hopefully, many of the non-members around the country will be inspired to join the APWU as we now move on to the next attack on our livelihood. There is no rest for the weary.

In Solidarity,

Chuck Camp

President, APWU Local #7048

# We Can Handle All of Your Legal Needs Including:

Personal Injury
Malpractice
Criminal
Employment Issues
Wills and Estates
Real Estate
Contracts
Business Issues

Our team of 65 attorneys, led by Lionel Prince, has worked with your membership and its leaders for more than 20 years.

We continue to offer a 25% discount from our standard fee for members of APWU and their families.

Please call Lionel Prince, Esq. with any legal problems or needs at 215 569 2800 x 116 or his cell 215 620 8383.

Brendan Lamanna will now be assisting long time counsel to BMC Local #7048, Lionel Prince. Brendan has been a practicing attorney with Zarwin Baum for eight years. He counsels individuals, businesses and charitable organizations on a variety of matters. He also practices general civil litigation, including personal injury, medical malpractice and business litigation. If you have any questions - legal or otherwise - for Brendan, you can reach him at 267.765.9629, or send him an email at bglamanna@zarwin.com.

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# Maintenance Report

By Row Leavesley, Maintenance Craft Director



# PREFERRED ASSIGNMENT SELECTIONS

January was the first opportunity for maintenance employees to submit their Preferred Assignment Selection forms indicating their choices for all positions in the facility for the occupational group that they currently work in. Hopefully employees saw the Philly Flyer that was posted addressing this. Article 38 Sec 5. A. 6. outlines the other circumstances and opportunities for employees to submit changes, this was also explained on the Flyer. Don't find yourself moving into a position that you are no longer interested in moving to or missing out on one that you are interested in.

### Check your PAR's!

### **CUSTODIAL TRAINING**

Under the new MS-47 TL-5 agreement each custodian is supposed to receive 40 hours of recurring training per calendar year. Since the inception of this agreement management has failed to administer this training to our custodial workforce. The issue of custodian's not receiving training has been discussed at Joint Labor Management Safety and Health Committee meetings on at least 3 occasions. At each of these meetings management acknowledged their obligation to provide this training and assured the union that it would be completed. This issue is now being addressed in the Grievance / Arbitration Procedure. Stay tuned for further information and updates.

# **EYEWASH STATIONS**

It was brought to the union's attention by a concerned APWU member that our eyewash stations may not be safe. After some investigation the union brought this concern to management. It was agreed that we would have the eyewash stations inspected by an independent qualified company. It became clearly evident during the inspection process that the eyewash stations would not meet the current ANSI safety standards. When the report from the inspection was received this was confirmed.

Through management and union discussions it was decided that new eyewash station would be ordered to replace the antiquated ones currently in place. In the interim portable units have been installed for eyewash emergencies, the shower portion of the existing units are still functional. New eyewash/shower units will replace the older ones with the exception of the south battery room. This unit will stay as is, due to the room being locked and no longer being utilized. There will be a unit installed under PSM 4 where the custodial chemicals are dispensed.

# **FAREWELL PRESIDENT TARDUCCI**

When I entered this facility in 2005 I was already aware that this local was considered one of the best in the country. I have always been a member of the APWU from the time I entered the USPS. As a member of this local I was involved on the fringe of the organization volunteering for committees or performing menial tasks. But it was when I became a steward for this local that I started to see the big picture as to why this local was as strong as it is.

Working as a steward gave me the opportunity to work for Vince as well as alongside him. I was able to get an even better understanding and develop a greater respect for who Vince Tarducci is and what he stands for. I was able to see firsthand the dedication that he has for protecting the worker and fighting for workers' rights. His genuine concern for the employees of this facility in particular, is unparalleled. After serving in my previous local and this local I can honestly say I have never witnessed anyone that cares as much as Vince.

Vince will surely be missed here but having his level of caring and dedication for our rights at the national level can only strengthen the APWU as a whole. I would like to wish Vince the greatest success in his new position. Last of all thank you Vince for all the years of service.

# TRUMP PICKS FOX TO WATCH HENHOUSE



To get an idea of what popular vote loser Trump has in store for Labor, take a look at Andy Puzder, his choice for Secretary of Labor.

The mission of the Department of Labor, as defined on its web site, is "to foster, promote and develop the welfare of the wage-earners, job seekers, and retirees of the United States; improve working conditions, advance opportunities for profitable employment; and assure work-related benefits and rights.

But fast food czar Puzder, the CEO of CKE Restaurants (Hardee's and Carl's Jr.) believes workers are "overprotected" and shouldn't get breaks, per his interview with Prof. Allison Varzally, reported in OC Weekly.

CKE Restaurants, under Puzder's leadership, routinely violated Labor laws and OSHA safety requirements. The Century Foundation reports that "back wages were routinely withheld from employees. Investigators found that employers had cut corners to avoid paying overtime. This included having workers punch in to work later than when they arrived, not paying overtime for double shifts, and even striking hours off of time cards. Other investigations found that (Puzder's)

franchisees were paying below minimum wage and withholding pay."

Naturally, Puzder is dead set against raising the minimum wage to a living wage. "He suggested in 2014 that increasing the minimum wage would hurt low-wage workers. At that time he was earning 291 times more than minimum wage employees working for his fast food chains". (Erin Corbett, Raw Story 12/28/16).

Based on his track record, an anti-worker lawbreaker like Puzder doesn't make sense as a Secretary of Labor. Unless, of course, his real job will be to dismantle the DOL and undermine its protection of workers' rights.

Bottom line: naming Andy Puzder the Secretary of Labor is no different than putting Bernie Madoff in charge of the Treasury Department.

In solidarity,

Joe Quinlan, Retiree member, APWU

# **NON-MEMBERS LOCAL 7048**

The following represents the list of employees who are not members of this local union. They freely give up any rights to a voice or vote, which ultimately gives them absolutely no say whatsoever in how the local union is run. Though this may be his or her right, there is much confusion as to why anyone throws away such a RIGHT. We make this list available for the sole purpose of informing the membership.

This is as of January 23, 2017.

# PHILADELPHIA BMC/NDC

Wilson, Shana, Clerk T-2 PSM-4 Emanuel, Herbert, T-2 Dock Clerk Suarez, Michael, Labor Custodian T-3 Henderson, Kennard, Maintenance T-3 Shuss, Betsy, Data Tech Clerk, Howard, Tyrone, Clerk FSS T-3 Raymond, Thomas, Clerk Tour-3

A member who signs one of these individuals to join the APWU is eligible to receive a \$100.00 incentive.

# **NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS**

All present and future retirees must keep the local updated with your current full address in order for the Local to include you in grievance settlements. Failure to do so could exempt you from future payouts. It is has very difficult or impossible to track retirees recently for grievance settlements. A motion was passed at the January EB meeting on this issue

Thank you for your cooperation.

# Clerk Craft Report



### **CHRISTMAS ANNEX**

I hope everyone and their families had a great holiday season and enjoyed your time together. While I'm on the subject I would like the membership to know that the local filed numerous class action grievances because casual mail handlers performed distribution work that we are contending is clerk craft work at the Christmas Annex. These are the same violations that occurred over the last couple of years. The violations include the manual distribution of approximately 600,000 pieces of machinable parcels on the 89 belts, bullpens, sack racks, and on the Destinating and Originating NMO spiders. These violations occurred from November 23, 2016 through December 24, 2016.

# PROTECT OUR WORK TO SECURE YOUR

# **JOB**

On a daily basis, machinable parcels are being processed by non-clerk craft employees on the LCUS NMO Sorter and the LCUS SACK sorter. Grievances have been filed and settled in the past when this has been done. We have already won this issue in ABITRATION but management has ignored this settlement and continues to violate that award. Processing machinable parcels is CLERK CRAFT WORK! Any member who witnesses machinable parcels being worked in any area by non-clerks is asked to write a statement so that we can continue to document these violations and file the appropriate grievances. As soon as you witness one of

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- PPWU John Boxler Scholarship
- APWU Hallbeck and Vocational Scholarships
- Federal Employee Education & Assistance FEEA 2017 Scholarship
- Union Plus Scholarship
- Local 7048 Piekielski Memorial Scholarship

the violations, please contact an officer or steward of the APWU so we can protect OUR WORK.

Currently violations are occurring on both Tour Three and on Tour Two in which our mail is being diverted to other, less efficient machines (LCUS NMO Sorter and LCUS SACK Sorter), and is worked by other crafts. This is wrong for our members, the USPS, and its customers. The secondary breaks these machinable parcels down in a five-digit sort before it leaves the building, the LCUS does not.

We have been assured in the past, by higher level management, that machinable parcels will be worked in the secondary. Now it is up to each of us to be vigilant in making sure that our work remains in our craft. Fight for your job security daily!!!

Clerk Craft Bid Schedule for 2015 (tentative)				
Open	Close	Final Award	Tentative Effective Date	
1/20/17	1/31/17	2/9/17	2/18/17	
3/3/17	3/14/17	3/23/17	4/1/17	
4/14/17	4/25/17	5/4/17	5/13/17	
6/9/17	6/20/17	6/29/17	7/8/17	
7/21/17	8/1/17	8/10/17	8/19/17	
9/1/17	9/13/17	9/22/17	10/1/17	
10/13/17	10/24/17	11/2/17	11/11/17	
11/30/17	12/11/17	12/20/17	12/29/17	

In Solidarity,

# Bill Schweiker

Clerk Craft Dir. APWU Local #7048

# APWU LOCAL #7048 STEWARD ROSTER

» Step 2 Designees Denoted with Bold, Cap, Underline \*\*\* All Stewards listed are authorized as Alternates for all tours and crafts, \*\*

NDC CLERK CRAFT

**Tour One** – *Regulars:* Ron Dever

Alternates: Kenyatte Temple, <u>JOE LOCKREY, CHUCK CAMP, JOE LUKOMSKI,</u>
ROBERT KOVALIK, <u>BILL SCHWEIKER,</u> Michelle Petrillo, Rich Krzemien,

Ron Leavesley, Benson Stephens,

Tour Two – Regulars: BILL SCHWEIKER, JOE LUKOMSKI,

Alternates: CHUCK CAMP, Neil Dossick, Pete Villa, Christine Tarducci, John Upchurch,

Lauren Johnson, JOE LOCKREY

Tour Three - Regulars: Ron Dever, Jim Desher

Alternates: Creshon Cardwell, JOE LUKOMSKI, ROBERT KOVALIK,
Kenyatte Temple, BILL SCHWEIKER, CHUCK CAMP, Michelle Petrillo, Benson Stephens, Christine Tarducci, Pete Villa, JOE LOCKREY, Jim McIntyre

# NDC MAINTENANCE CRAFT

<u>Tour One</u> – *Regulars:* <u>ROBERT KOVALIK</u>, Benson Stephens

Alternates: Madonna Duffy, Jim McIntyre, RON LEAVESLEY

Tour Two - Regulars: RON LEAVESLEY, CHUCK CAMP

Alternates: ROBERT KOVALIK, BILL SCHWEIKER, JOE LOCKREY,

Joe Lukomski, Benson Stephens

**Tour Three** – *Regulars:* Benson Stephens

Alternates: ROBERT KOVALIK, Jim McIntyre, RON LEAVESLEY,

BILL SCHWEIKER, Ron Dever, Joe Lukomski

### NDC MOTOR VEHICLE SERVICE CRAFT

**Tour One** – *Regulars:* Kenyatta Temple

Alternates: JOE LOCKREY, ROBERT KOVALIK, Ron Dever, Benson Stephens,

CHUCK CAMP, RON LEAVESLEY

Tour Two - Regulars: JOE LOCKREY

Alternates: CHUCK CAMP, BILL SCHWEIKER, Joe Lukomski, Pete Villa

**Tour Three** – *Regulars:* Creshon Cardwell

Alternates: Ron Dever, JOE LOCKREY, CHUCK CAMP, Joe Lukomski,

ROBERT KOVALIK

# **LEVITTOWN POST OFFICE, ALL TOURS**

Clerk Craft - Regulars: BILL SCHWEIKER

Alternates: RON DION, ROBERT KOVALIK, Pete Villa, CHUCK CAMP,

Joe Lukomski, JOE LOCKREY

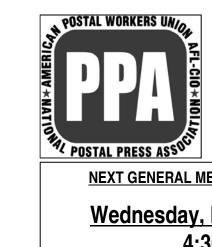
**Maintenance Craft** – Regulars: **RON DION** 

Alternates: ROBERT KOVALIK

# **FAIRLESS HILLS POST OFFICE, ALL TOURS**

**All Crafts** – Regulars: **BILL SCHWEIKER** 

Alternates: CHUCK CAMP, JOE LOCKREY, ROBERT KOVALIK





# **NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:**

# Wednesday, March 15, 2017 4:30 PM

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# **CANCEL YOUR LEAVE IN ADVANCE**

If you have pre-approved annual leave in the book and know you no longer need it, please cancel it so that your fellow sister or brother union member who was disapproved can take their annual leave. On some occasions employees who have 8 hours approved for a given day, show up to work their tour and the person who was disapproved for 8 hours is told if they want it they can leave. By this time the employee already traveled to work and it is too late for them to make arrangements. Suggestion is to ask for a steward when your annual leave is disapproved so a steward can check the leave book. Sometimes it is learned that an employee may have canceled their leave at the last minute.

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# **Daily Updates From Your Union Local**

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